

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 FRB-03

OMB-01 TAR-01 SP-02 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00

CIEP-01 CEA-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 /128 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ORF/ICD:MPBOERNER:GK

APPROVED BY EB/ORF:JLKATZ

E:RSORENSEN

EB/ORF/ICD:EAWENDT

EUR/RPE:ECASEY

TREASURY:MCOLER

S/S - FVORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL OECD CAPITALS PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 013335

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, OECD

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR FEBRUARY MEETING OF OECD HIGH-LEVEL
GROUP ON COMMODITIES

REF: GENEVA 9362

1. WE ASSUME FIRST MEETING OF CIEC'S COMMISSION ON RAW
MATERIALS (CORM) WILL TAKE PLACE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11 IN
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PARIS AS AGREED AT LAST DECEMBER'S CIEC. U.S. BELIEVES

CONSULTATIONS AMONG DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ON COMMODITIES IN ADVANCE OF THIS MEETING WOULD BE DESIRABLE, INCLUDING WITH THOSE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES NOT REPRESENTED IN THE CORM, AND THAT APPROPRIATE VEHICLE FOR SUCH CONSULTATION WOULD BE OECD HIGH-LEVEL GROUP ON COMMODITIES (HLGC). SINCE THE LAST SESSION OF THE HLGC AGREED FEBRUARY MEETING OF GROUP WAS DESIRABLE, OECD PARIS IS REQUESTED TO INDICATE TO OECD SECRETARIAT THAT U.S. WOULD SUPPORT HLGC MEETING NEXT FEBRUARY 9-10, IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO CORM MEETING.

2. AT SUCH A HLGC MEETING, U.S. WOULD BE PREPARED TO OUTLINE OVERALL POSITION IT INTENDS TO PURSUE IN CORM AND HEAR VIEWS OF OTHER OECD MEMBERS, IN PARTICULAR THOSE WHO WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN CORM (JAPAN, WHICH WILL BE CO-CHAIRMAN OF CORM, EC, AUSTRALIA AND SPAIN). AT PRESENT OUR VIEW IS THAT THE FIRST SESSION OF CORM SHOULD BE DEVOTED TO PREPARATION OF AGENDA AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS. THEREAFTER, CORM SHOULD BEGIN SUBSTANTIVE WORK BY CONCENTRATING ON DISCUSSION OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND ELEMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY ACTIVITIES SUCH AS COMPENSATORY FINANCE, INVESTMENT, ETC. WE BELIEVE THIS EMPHASIS ON GENERAL ISSUES IS IMPORTANT IN VIEW OF FORTHCOMING UNCTAD-IV MEETING IN MAY, TO WHICH CORM MAY BE ABLE TO MAKE SOME CONTRIBUTION.

3. OUR TENTATIVE THINKING IS THAT THE GROUP B PAPER ON OBJECTIVES AND TECHNIQUES OF COMMODITY POLICY DEVELOPED AT DECEMBER MEETING OF UNCTAD COMMITTEE ON COMMODITIES MAY PROVIDE A USEFUL STARTING POINT FOR DISCUSSION IN OECD HLGC AND IN CORM ITSELF. WE NOTE THIS PAPER WAS FULLY AGREED AMONG GROUP B PARTICIPANTS IN GENEVA (ALTHOUGH ON AN AD REFERENDUM BASIS), EXCEPT FOR SECTION ON ACCESS TO MARKETS AND SUPPLIES, WHERE CANADA AND FRANCE WERE UNABLE TO AGREE ON A FORMULATION OF THESE ISSUES AS OBJECTIVES. U.S. CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THESE ARE ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF ANY GENERALIZED APPROACH TO COMMODITIES AND WILL BE APPROACHING BOTH COUNTRIES AND OECD SECRETARIAT IN AN ATTEMPT TO FIND ACCEPTABLE FORMULATION IN ADVANCE OF HLGC MEETING (SEPTELS BEING SENT TO OTTAWA, PARIS AND OECD PARIS ON THIS SUBJECT).

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4. ASSUMING THESE DIFFERENCES CAN BE RESOLVED, U.S. WISHES TO DISCUSS IN HLGC ADVISABILITY OF PRESENTING THIS DRAFT OR SOME SIMILAR FORMULATION AS BASIS FOR INITIAL DISCUSSIONS IN CORM, WITH HOPE THAT WE CAN EVENTUALLY ARRIVE AT SOME AGREED STATEMENT ON COMMODITY POLICY WHICH COULD BE USEFUL AT UNCTAD-IV. WE ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES THIS APPROACH PRESENTS, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF FACT THAT G-77 AT GENEVA DID NOT SHOW ANY INCLINATION

TO ACCEPT GROUP B DRAFT AND WILL INEVITABLY SEE IT AS ALTERNATIVE FORMULATION TO UNCTAD'S INTEGRATED PROGRAM. NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE CONVINCED THIS PROCEDURE REPRESENTS BEST INITIAL STRATEGY FOR CORM SESSIONS AND WILL PROVIDE A USEFUL FRAMEWORK FOR CORM DISCUSSIONS ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES.

5. IN APPROACHING OECD SECRETARIAT ON DATES OF HLGC MEETING, OECD PARIS MAY NOTE THAT U.S. REP WILL BE JULIUS L. KATZ, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE, WHO WILL ALSO BE U.S. REP TO CORM, AND THAT OUR INTENTION IN AGREEING TO MEETING IS TO DISCUSS DEVELOPED COUNTRY POSITIONS IN THE CORM, WHICH WE BELIEVE SHOULD BE PRINCIPAL TOPIC AT MEETING. YOU MAY INDICATE GENERAL LINES OF APPROACH WE INTEND TO TAKE AS INDICATED IN PARA 3 ABOVE.

6. OTHER ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD CONTACT HOST GOVERNMENTS AND OUTLINE U.S. VIEWS AS INDICATED IN PARA 3 ABOVE AS WELL AS INDICATE U.S. INTEREST IN HLGC MEETING TO DISCUSS THESE FEBRUARY 9-10 IN ADVANCE OF CORM SESSION. YOU SHOULD REPORT ANY REACTION TO THESE U.S. VIEWS. REFTTEL CONTAINS TEXT OF GROUP B PAPER REFERRED TO IN PARA 3 AND IS BEING REPEATED TO ADDRESSEE POSTS NOT ON ORIGINAL DISTRIBUTION. KISSINGER

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